

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

HMAC USA LLC

Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center

HMAC Reduces Downtime with PLC Training

Client Profile:

Hitachi Metals American (HMAC) specializes in casting, precision machining and assembly for the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) automotive industry. The primary manufacturing activities performed at the company's facility in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania are CNC machining of ductile cast iron. HMAC employs 70 people.

Situation:

Programmable logic controllers (PLCs) have become a mainstay in manufacturing and process control because of their great versatility and time saving features. HMAC realized that proper training is crucial to plant operations because all production is on CNC machines with operators responsible for multiple machines. The company contacted the Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (NEPIRC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

NEPIRC provided HMAC with step-by-step instruction on testing power supply, fundamentals, and troubleshooting input and output PLC devices. Attendees used advanced PLC trainers to learn the process of connecting devices to the PLC and writing programs with an emphasis on becoming a better PLC troubleshooter. As a result of NEPIRC's assistance, HMAC has been able to reduce their repair costs and downtimes.

Results:

- * Realized \$10,000 in cost savings.
- * Reduced downtime to 2 hours.

Testimonial:

"The training that our staff received has provided a multitude of benefits. From giving our staff another tool in their 'skills tool box' to giving them the confidence and the feeling that what they do for HMAC is important. Even though the training was for actual hands-on experience, the benefits reach further than that."

Darla J. Shick, Human Resources Manager